

**Subpart F—Conditions of Participation: Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)**

SOURCE: 58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 485.601 Basis and scope.**

(a) *Statutory basis.* This subpart is based on section 1820 of the Act which sets forth the conditions for designating certain hospitals as CAHs.

(b) *Scope.* This subpart sets forth the conditions that a hospital must meet to be designated as a CAH.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

**§ 485.603 Rural health network.**

A rural health network is an organization that meets the following specifications:

- (a) It includes—
  - (1) At least one hospital that the State has designated or plans to designate as a CAH; and
  - (2) At least one hospital that furnishes acute care services.
- (b) The members of the organization have entered into agreements regarding—
  - (1) Patient referral and transfer;
  - (2) The development and use of communications systems, including, where feasible, telemetry systems and systems for electronic sharing of patient data; and
  - (3) The provision of emergency and nonemergency transportation among members.
- (c) Each CAH has an agreement with respect to credentialing and quality assurance with at least—
  - (1) One hospital that is a member of the network when applicable;
  - (2) One QIO or equivalent entity; or
  - (3) One other appropriate and qualified entity identified in the State rural health care plan.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 46035, Aug. 29, 1997; 63 FR 26359, May 12, 1998]

**§ 485.604 Personnel qualifications.**

Staff that furnish services in a CAH must meet the applicable requirements of this section.

(a) *Clinical nurse specialist.* A clinical nurse specialist must be a person who—

(1) Is a registered nurse and is licensed to practice nursing in the State in which the clinical nurse specialist services are performed in accordance with State nurse licensing laws and regulations; and

(2) Holds a master's or doctoral level degree in a defined clinical area of nursing from an accredited educational institution.

(b) *Nurse practitioner.* A nurse practitioner must be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the State, who meets the State's requirements governing the qualification of nurse practitioners, and who meets one of the following conditions:

(1) Is currently certified as a primary care nurse practitioner by the American Nurses' Association or by the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates.

(2) Has successfully completed a 1 academic year program that—

(i) Prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care;

(ii) Includes at least 4 months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction and a component of supervised clinical practice; and

(iii) Awards a degree, diploma, or certificate to persons who successfully complete the program.

(3) Has successfully completed a formal educational program (for preparing registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care) that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and has been performing an expanded role in the delivery of primary care for a total of 12 months during the 18-month period immediately preceding June 25, 1993.

(c) *Physician assistant.* A physician assistant must be a person who meets the applicable State requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to primary care physicians, and who meets at least one of the following conditions:

(1) Is currently certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to assist primary care physicians.